

# GO HUNT Hawai'i

CONNECTING HUNTERS  
& RESOURCE MANAGERS



Photo: Brian Howell

This is the fourth edition of Go Hunt Hawai'i, a quarterly newsletter to connect hunters and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW). [Sign up](#) to stay up to date on announcements, Game Management Advisory Commission meeting dates, changes to hunting areas, and more.

**SIGN ME UP**

## Results of Statewide Hunter Survey

MAHALO TO HUNTERS FOR PARTICIPATING

In 2017, hunters throughout the state provided valuable information on their use of hunting lands in 2016 via an online survey. A total of 453 hunters participated in the pilot survey from the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, sharing their hunting history, locations, licensing, and more. Key findings are included here.

Results will be used to inform management of the game program. DOFAW hopes that more hunters will add their voices to the 2018 survey, to be released in February. A copy of the full report on the 2017 survey (when available) can be requested [here](#).



**Most hunters supplement with game meals** — 45% supplement for up to 9 meals a month, and 37% for 9 to 30 meals a month.



**Top three most utilized hunting units** — Pu'u Wa'a Wa'a and Pu'u Anahulu Forest Reserves (Hawai'i), Unit 2 and Unit 1 (Lana'i).



**Most hunters had hunted on public lands** — (87%), with 48% hunting game mammals, 35% gamebirds and mammals, and 4% gamebirds only.



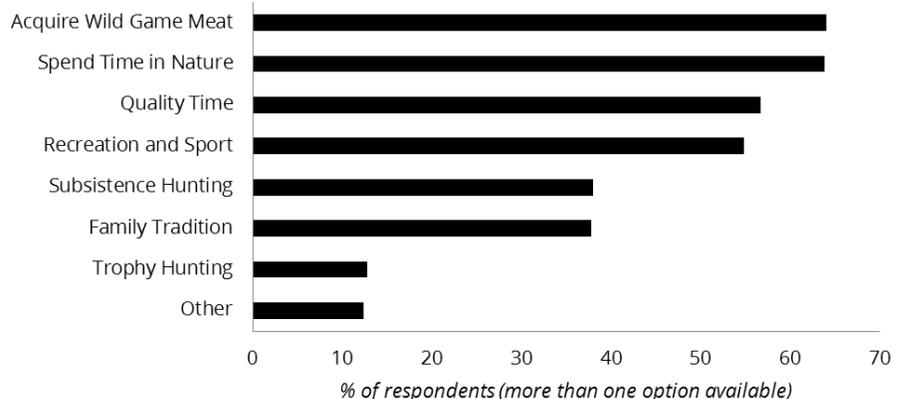
**Most valued potential improvements to the hunting program** — Acquisition of more hunting areas, better access to public hunting areas, and an increase in the number of days for hunting game mammals.



**More than half of hunters had hunted on private lands** — (58%), with an average of 22 days per year.



**Reasons for hunting** — (see graph below)



# Volunteers Help Revive O'ahu Gamebird Hunt

What happens when the main supplier of gamebirds on O'ahu stops providing birds? Instead of letting the hunting program suffer, concerned hunters joined forces with the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to rear and release gamebirds themselves.

According to Nick Vargas of DOFAW, "DLNR sponsored the effort, but Gordon Lau, Jr. and David Kamai, I call them the heads of this whole project. They put all the time and effort into making this a reality". The assistance of a team of volunteer hunters and Kupu Hawai'i interns was also invaluable.

Using the skills of the volunteers, two pens were built to house the birds. "We had carpenters, and all these guys who weren't scared to go out in the field. It was quick because everyone

had a skill, everyone did what needed to get done," said Lau.

Once the chicks arrived from the mainland, daily trips to care for them were required. The rearing process was a learning experience for all. Pens had to be retrofitted more than once to prevent a "conniving" mongoose and pigs from breaking into the enclosure, but in the end they raised more birds than anticipated.

A total of 252 birds were reared from a day old to maturity and released every Friday during hunting season at Kuokala Game Management Area. This included ring-necked pheasants and 'blues' (melanistic mutants). DOFAW would like to thank the volunteers who contributed their time to this project. It is hoped that it will continue into the future.



## Announcements

### KAUA'I

#### SPECIAL ARCHERY FERAL GOAT PERMITS

Permits for feral goat control in Hunting Unit A, Kekaha Game Management Area are now available.

Permits are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis from **Lihu'e DOFAW Office, 3060 'Eiwa Street, Room 306, Lihu'e, HI 96766**. For more information, click [here](#).

### LANA'I

#### AXIS DEER LOTTERY RESULTS AVAILABLE

DOFAW has successfully launched a new computer-generated system for the Lana'i Axis Deer lottery drawing. We look forward to continuing to use it for future hunting seasons.

Results of the draw are available [here](#).

### HAWAI'I

#### NEXT GMAC MEETING TO BE HELD ON HAWAI'I

The next meeting for the Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC) is planned for March in Hilo. This will be the first time it is being held outside of O'ahu.

For updates on the date and location of the meeting, please view the [state calendar](#), or watch for email announcements.

For future announcements  
and news, please  
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DO YOU HAVE PICTURES OF  
HUNTING ON PUBLIC LANDS?

We're looking for hunting  
activities, game animals &  
landscapes to be featured in  
future newsletters/online.

Please email us at  
[huntinghawaii@hawaii.gov](mailto:huntinghawaii@hawaii.gov)

